

Life in the Wilderness

Term 1 Issue #1 | Friday 18 February, 2022



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

2022 - We've Got This!

Belinda Arnfield, Interim Principal

It is lovely to see all students back at Wilderness, embracing the important lesson that all challenges can be faced and overcome with resilience, persistence, and collaboration.

Our official Welcome Back Assembly with all girls on site, gave me a platform to reflect and share an enormous sense of pride in how our Wilderness community is responding to yet another challenging start to the school year.

Although there are continuing restrictions and the necessary addition of face masks, everyone has responded confidently to new ways of learning balanced with a focus on wellbeing. I have seen our girls, teachers, staff, and families, approach situations through a positive lens, recognising that we have agency in how our future looks.

At Wilderness, we teach the girls to be responsible, respectful and generous global citizens and leaders. Exemplifying our values is Year 12 student Inika Weber, who has been named 2022 Prospect City Council Young Citizen of the Year.

Inika has a long list of achievements, including outstanding contributions to a broad range of activities within the School, and involvement in the Youth Environment Council of South Australia, Anglicare's Foster Care program and the Treasure Box, which supports women and children in need.

Congratulations also to Year 12 student, Amolika Bhatia, who this week completed her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, our first student to achieve this prestigious award since its reintroduction to Wilderness. Amolika has embraced challenges and new adventures as part of the Award and made many significant contributions, having an impact on the lives of others in the community.

I would also like to mention girls who recently completed the Silver Awards - Millie Gosse, Elizabeth Parkinson, Eliza Quick, Nuhaa Hasan, Isabel Southon, Molly Simpson, Charlie Bower, Jemima Langley, Sorchia McGrath and Nicole Webb.

As we settle into the rhythm and routines of 2022, I wish to remind parents of the available platforms created to ensure communication between home and school is efficient and easy.

Parent Portal - SEQTA Engage

SEQTA Engage provides parents with access to important information and quick links to other applications in one central location.

As a Wilderness parent, we encourage you to access the App for the following items:

- Important dates, finance information, uniform shop details, co-curricular activity information, café menus and other helpful resources under **Portals**.
- Your daughter's **Timetable and Academic Reports**.
- **Class contact lists** used for class parties, get-togethers and other social activities outside of the classroom.
- **Quick links to:**
 - **Flexishools**: our cashless online system for tuckshop/Café orders.
 - **Clipboard**: an extracurricular management system for Years 1 to 12 designed to provide you with access to your daughter's co-curricular schedule, including her training and game details as well as her results and any other weekly information required.
 - **Student Absentees Form**. Please note all parents are asked to inform the School of their daughter's absence by 9.00am using this form.

At the start of the year, new parents to the School receive an automatic email from SEQTA to help guide the platform's setup. I encourage you to [contact](#) the Hive, should you have any issues.

Seesaw – ELC to Year 6

Seesaw provides our parent community with an authentic window into our classrooms and learning. Their daughter's journal can be downloaded and documented as she transitions from year to year, allowing for a personalised continuum of their daughter's time in the Junior School. It is also used to distribute quick reminders to parents, e.g. casual day reminders.

SMS ☐

In an emergency such as a bushfire warning or school closure, the School will notify parents of the situation via SMS.

Email☐

Email is regularly used to communicate between the School and our community for year-level activity notifications, special announcements, school news, and significant events.

Social Media☐☐

We encourage you to follow Wilderness School on the following platforms to see our girls in action:

Facebook: WildernessSchool

Instagram: wildernessschool_sa

Finally, I would like to introduce our new Health Nurse, Melissa Follet, to the community. Melissa has extensive experience working with children having spent the past eight years in community nursing for Child and Family Health Service, and previously working on the Adolescent Ward at the Women's and Children's Hospital for seven years.

Melissa has hit the ground running this term and has already started to form trusting relationships with girls who have visited the centre.

Things are still a little fluid, with ongoing implications for sport, excursions, and gatherings. However, we will continue to update you over the coming weeks, and I look forward to sharing more exciting achievements throughout the year.



EARLY LEARNING

Settling in With Ease

[Rebecca Williamson, Assistant Head of Junior School Early Years](#)

The transition into 2022 has been very smooth in our Early Learning Centre, thanks to exceptional planning - and the time, care and consideration given to every girl's individual needs.

The girls have settled into their new houses, routines, and environments with ease. For many, this has been the first time they have experienced early education, and care outside of the family. We are so proud of, and pleased with, their contributions to the group, their progress, and their resilience.

The kindness and friendship extended by our special little girls, who are already a part of our Early Learning Centre, have also been key.

We are excited about what the year will bring with this outstanding group of girls.







JUNIOR SCHOOL

Feeling Whole Again

[Liz McCarthy, Head of Junior School](#)

The start of the 2022 school year has certainly been unusual in our Junior School, with our very smallest girls - Early Learning Centre (ELC), Reception and Year 1 - joining us on site from Wednesday 2 February - and our Years 2 to 6 girls accessing online learning from home for Weeks 1 and 2.

We were immensely proud of the way our girls engaged with their learning, their teachers, and one another during this time, particularly given they had not had the opportunity to function as a class group with their new teachers.

While this period was successful, it is no surprise we were delighted to welcome the Years 2 to 6 girls back to our classrooms on Monday 14 February, making our Junior School feel whole again. The excitement was palpable as the girls arrived and greeted one another. We know that there were fewer play dates during this last break than usual, given the circumstances, so there was extra joy in being together again.

The week has settled quickly, with teachers and girls adapting to new considerations to the ways we are learning - from taking more opportunities to learn outside, following the strong recommendation related to mask wearing for Years 3 to 6 girls, and using our learning materials on a more individual basis, rather than sharing resources as much as we usually would. It has been lovely to see a return to our co-curricular program, with tennis, Musical Theatre Club and Ballet also commencing this week.

Next week we will finally be able to celebrate our Year 6 leaders, as they are presented

with their badges and officially commence their leadership roles for 2022.

The girls leading our Junior School this semester are:

Executive

Semester 1

President

Evangeline Lee

Vice President

Tara Salerno

Secretary

Selin Cinar

House Captains

Amaryllis

Jasmine Lu
Emilia Rowberry

Antholiza

Zoya Rizwan
Jemima Hicks

Carob

Matilda Burns
Isla Balestrin

Cedar

Scarlett Desyllas
Matilda Kennedy

Sparaxis

Maya Iannella
Sameera Bajhau

Committee Representatives

Sport

Linah Kafagy

Citizenship

Lucy Davis

Environment

Asha Dan

Media

Cleo Huntington
Reese Liu

Library

Miaomiao Zhu

Elysse Sarris

Elysse Sarris

Performing Arts

Sky Jeffries

Student Foundation

Sirui Tang

With a focus on celebrating and making the most of the things we are able to do as opposed to those we aren't, I look forward to the coming term for our ELC and Junior School girls with anticipation. The simple ability for us to be together, to welcome our brand new girls in person, to learn and play, connect and build relationships in an environment that is face to face, is something we feel deeply grateful for.

Introducing Ms Jane Grace

I am delighted to introduce to you Jane Grace, our new Personal Assistant to the Head of Junior School.

Ms Grace works from the Junior School front office. She will be the person the girls see when they come in, as well as the person you as parents and caregivers will speak with when you phone the Junior School. Jane comes to us with a wealth of experience in Schools and her warmth, kindness, and exceptional organisational skills are already having an impact on our girls, families, and staff.

'It is with great excitement that I introduce myself to the Wilderness Community. My name is Jane Grace and I have worked in the education sector for 22 years, starting as a ELC Co-Educator at Pulteney Grammar School. A sea change took me to Sydney where I worked at Wenona School as a Teacher's Assistant with Kindergarten to Year 2. A brief move to Melbourne to work as a Teachers Assistant in the Reception Learning Studio at Melbourne Girls Grammar. Back to Sydney where I was reemployed at Wenona as the Junior School's Administration Assistant. Missing my family during COVID, I have relocated back to Adelaide where I have been lucky to be employed as the Personal Assistant to Head of Junior School. I am super excited to be able to get to know your girls, along with assisting families and becoming part of the Wilderness Community.'





MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ready for 2022

[Rhianon Giles, Acting Head of the Middle School](#)

The Middle School girls are all together again, and we are ready for an exciting year.

All Year 7s returned for Orientation Morning to spend time with their Form Teachers. Armed with their brand-new laptops, they spent the morning deciphering the codes on their timetables, finding their lockers, and getting to know some new faces. The new Year 8s and 9s were also welcomed, met with their Form Teachers, and toured the School. It was particularly important for the Year 9s to be introduced to SEQTA, Canvas and WebEx, in preparation for online learning starting the following day.

Last week, the Middle School Student Representative Council (SRC) met with their staff mentors via WebEx to write goals for Semester 1. Diya (Middle School President), Indie (Middle School Vice President) and Lucy (Middle School Secretary) reflected on their short period of online learning and their hopes for the semester:

‘Although online school comes with its challenges, it is a great way to spend more time with your family. It is important to encourage your peers to stay driven and motivated. This semester we hope to create an inclusive and tighter community within the Middle School ‘.

In the past week, I have been reminded of the words of Miss Mamie, ‘in the long run it is the girls who make the School’. It is then little wonder that until we have been able to welcome everyone back to the School grounds, Wilderness just did not feel complete.

Welcome to our New Robotics Lab

We are excited for our students to further their DTE (Design, Technology and Engineering) learning this year in our brand new, purpose-built robotics lab, thanks to State Government funding. This will be a wonderful space for our girls to develop new skills, problem solve and create incredible projects.



SENIOR SCHOOL

Students with Heart

Ben Manifold, Head of Senior School

It has been wonderful to have all girls back on campus for face-to-face lessons. They have all settled into the daily routine well and have embraced the need to wear face masks to keep our community safe. As we head into Week 4 next week, I remind all girls to ensure that they are on top of their assessment requirements by regularly checking the Assessment Planner they received a link to in Week 1. Time management and planning are key skills required for success in the Senior School.

A reminder that the annual Middle and Senior School Interhouse Swimming Carnival has had to be postponed and will not take place at the end of Week 4. For further details, please refer to the Sport article.

From our Student Representative Council

We were so excited to welcome the Year 10s and 11s back onto campus this week, beginning the year in strange, yet familiar, circumstances. We are very proud of the resilience demonstrated by our girls and teachers when presented with the challenges that come with online learning. We hope that those online could appreciate some of the positives of online learning, and still make connections with their peers and staff. This may have included sleep-ins, snacking during lesson breaks and Birkenstocks hidden from the camera - although we are sure it definitely would have been nice to be back at school with all your friends and teachers. A special thank you to the House Captains for

organising the love-heart welcome back messages, alongside the Year 7s, 8s and 12s who decorated them - this was a lovely initiative.

The Year 12s celebrated their last first day with messages of gratitude, colourful ribbons and walking through the School gates together. It was a lovely way to start what will hopefully be an incredible year.

We, along with the rest of the School community, would like to congratulate Olivia Scamoni (Year 12) on her selection in the National Water Polo team. We wish her all the best for the season to come.

Secondly, we would like to congratulate Inika Weber (Year 12) for receiving the City of Prospect's 2022 Young Citizen of the Year Award. Inika is described by her teachers as 'a kind and generous student who interacts very well with her peers, staff, and members of the community.' This is an outstanding achievement.

Finally, on Valentine's Day, the Year 12s organised an activity that allowed them to write personal notes of gratitude and kindness to their peers. The Library Committee, led by SRC Representative, Trishna Ramkumar arranged Library Lovers Day, with special notes left on the girls' lockers.

We are so excited for what this term has in store for us and cannot wait to share a range of experiences with the girls, whether through Swimming Carnival, Appreciation Week, International Women's Day, or Summer Intercol, as we continue to grow our Wildy spirit.

Thank you to everyone in the Wilderness Community for your resilience, kindness, and flexibility through these unusual times.

Amolika Bhatia, Harriet Craig, and Eliza Corbin
SRC Executive 2022





BOARDING

Everyone is in the House

[Renee Coventry, Head of Boarding](#)

Following our staggered return to on site learning, the Year 9, 10 and 11 girls who have been learning online from the Boarding House and School grounds have happily recommenced their routine alongside the day girls.

Weekend Activities

Last weekend, Zoe Hampshire assisted our girls with a range of activities. A group of girls travelled to Hahndorf for a leisurely afternoon of strawberry picking. It was lovely to see the stash they brought back to the house. On Sunday, following a BBQ breakfast of bacon and eggs, Year 7s Sarah and Poppy helped Zoe with a small vegetable patch at the back of the Boarding House. We are hopeful that we can tend to these plants both outside and inside the house over the year.

Feeling Good and Functioning Well

Over the coming weeks, Chris Hill and I plan to have a wellbeing conversation with each of the girls as a touch base. These one-to-one conversations allow us to understand how we can best support each girl this term and help us to understand how they settled into the Boarding House. It is important to us that each girl is feeling good and functioning well so that their learning potential can be optimised while at Wilderness. During these

Wellbeing conversations, we will ask girls to reflect on what is working well for them so far, what their goals are for the term and how we can support them to achieve these goals.

We are particularly interested in ensuring that girls have a good start to each day and are switched on to learn. Over the coming week, I will invite girls to respond to a short survey about 'kick starting the morning', including survey questions about what and what they would like to see included in our breakfast offerings.

Boarding Parents Committee

As the first meeting of parents was unable to proceed in person at the beginning of the year, we have arranged a WebEx meeting for the Boarding Parents on **Thursday 24 February at 5.00pm**. All families are welcome to join. Min Smulders has requested that any agenda items be [emailed](#) to her prior to the meeting. Belinda Arnfield, April Ridgway and I will attend the meeting on this day.





SPORT

Sport Is Back

[Jon Trovas, Director of Sport and Recreation](#)

The eagerly anticipated return to sport is finally here, with all our girls having the opportunity to resume their Intrасchool Sport training, trials and practices. It has been truly enjoyable to see new and familiar faces light up as they engage in their chosen sports and recreation activities.

Following Ash Barty's historic Australian Open win, we have seen a successful start to our tennis programs. We welcome our new Middle and Senior School tennis coach, Matt Taverne, and Tennis Masters who have been putting our girls through their paces to start the season.

This year Wilderness has launched Year 1 and 2 after-school activities for our younger learners, with Hotshots Tennis starting this week. It was a wonderful success with Head Start Tennis taking our girls through a range of modified activities in small groups.

We look forward to their continued development through play.

Delayed Swimming Carnivals

Please note that three of the major Interschool Swimming Carnivals have deferred their championship events to the following dates in Term 2 due to the restrictions. Please see confirmation of the dates below:

- SAPSASA Tuesday 24 May, Week 4 Term 2
- SSSSA Thursday 26 May, Week 4 Term 2
- IGSSA Week 5 Term 2, day to be confirmed.

Middle and Senior School Interhouse Swimming Carnival

Please note the Middle and Senior School Interhouse Swimming Carnival has been postponed to **Tuesday 29 March** (Week 9) at the SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre.

Drop-offs and pick-ups in the Parklands

With our training sessions resuming, we ask our parents and caregivers to please be mindful of the traffic signs and road rules in the Parklands. Please note, no cars should be stopping in the bus zone to drop-off or pick-up. This is a significant danger for students and road users and contributes to traffic congestion. Please use available car spaces either side of the bus zone or along the road.

Please refer to our map [here](#).

Celebrating success

We are incredibly proud of our talented young athletes at Wilderness. We would love to be able to share their success with the community. We ask our parents and caregivers to please [email](#) photos and notice of your daughter's achievements to so we can acknowledge them.





CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Making Music

[Anna Lenartowicz, Head of Music](#)

Instrumental and vocal lessons recommenced this week in a face-to-face format for all instruments except for voice, which is being undertaken via WebEx.

By now you should have heard directly from your music tutor with further information on lesson days and times, which will be displayed on their SEQTA timetables as per usual, with most rotating weekly.

A reminder to please contact your instrumental tutor directly, before 8:30am if your daughter is going to be absent on the day of her lesson.

Please advise the Music Department in advance of potential absences, most importantly, if your daughter does test positive to COVID-19 and had an instrumental lesson in the 48 hours prior to the positive test result, please inform the School as previously communicated.

If you have any questions or concerns please [email](#) Mrs Vanessa Abela or [contact](#) the Music Office.

Ensemble Rehearsals

I am pleased to inform you that all ensembles, except for choirs, can commence rehearsals next week, beginning **Monday 21 February**. The rehearsal timetable can be accessed via SEQTA Engage. Please make sure that you email the ensemble director or

the [Music Office](#) in advance if your daughter is unable to attend any rehearsals or if you have any questions.

If your daughter is interested in joining any of our ensembles, we warmly invite you to contact us. There are many opportunities for all girls at Wilderness to take part in one of our vibrant and exciting aspects of co-curricular music life and we would love to see some new faces in 2022.

We have some exciting events planned later in the year, our music dates can be accessed via SEQTA Engage.



COMMUNITY

Show Your Support

[Jen Guest, P&F Representative](#)

Each year, we offer parents the opportunity to become involved in the Wilderness community. There are different levels of involvement on offer, some more formal than others, but all equally as important.

If you are interested in joining the Parents and Association, nominations for the following positions are now open:

Class Representatives

Together our co-class representatives organise non-compulsory social events for both our girls and their parents. They hold events two to three times per year, with previous class events including:

- Bottle and Plate
- Picnic in the Park
- Daddy Daughter Kingpin Bowling Afternoon
- Movie Night

If you think this is a role you would enjoy, please complete the [Nomination Form](#) by **Friday 25 February** and a P&F representative will be in touch with you shortly after the closing date.

Parents and Friends' Committee

Nominations are now open for the following roles:

- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Committee Member

We meet once per term and assist at various school functions throughout the year including Junior School Sports Day and Christmas Concert, Music and Drama Performances, Speech Night and other Drinks and Nibbles events. While the committee supports school events, it is also dedicated to raising funds for smaller projects that supplement larger building works at Wilderness.

We aim to build a strong sense of community and fellowship with existing and new families while having fun along the way.

We encourage you to consider joining our committee by submitting your [nomination](#). Please note all nominations are to be [emailed](#) to current P&F Secretary Meg Ryan no later than **Sunday 27 February 2022**.

2022 AGM

We also welcome all community members to attend the Parent and Friends' Association Annual General Meeting for 2022 on:

Monday 28 February

6.00pm

Hender Hall

To RSVP please [click here](#).

Please note, for contact tracing purposes, all parents are required to RSVP to the event.

Wilderness Supporters' Range

Orders are now open for the Wilderness Supporters' Range.

Designed by local company Silver Fleece, the range includes high-quality rugby tops, polo tops, scarves and beanies that can be worn by parents, grandparents and special friends at school sport games, co-curricular activities and intercollegiate competitions.

Orders can be placed online through [Flexischools](#) (under special clothing). Please note orders will need to be placed by **4.30pm Sunday 20 March**.

Once the orders have arrived in early Term 2, parents will be notified and instructed to collect their purchase from the Uniform Shop.

Should you wish to try on a rugby sample for sizing, The Uniform Shop will have some available to you. Please note, sizing must be correct at the time of order, as we are unable to exchange or return items.

If you have any questions about the Supporters Range please contact [Meredith Olsson](#), Uniform Shop Manager.

We hope you join us in proudly wearing our Wilderness range throughout the year.



